

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, BL

SUBJ: ENERGY CONSUMPTION IN BOLIVIA

REF: STATE 153809

1. DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION OF PETROLEUM ABOUT 880,000 CUBIC METERS,
OF NATURAL GAS ABOUT 1,745 CUBIC METERS OF COAL
ABOUT 6 METRIC TONS AND HYDROELECTRICITY ABOUT 712.5 GWH.
UTILIZATION OF THESE ENERGY SOURCES BY SECTORS IS ABOUT
AS FOLLOWS:

AGRI - PETROLEUM 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL

HYDROELECTRIC 10 PERCENT OF TOTAL

TRANSPORT PETROLEUM 70PERCENT OF TOTAL

MINING HYDROELECTRICITY 35PERCENT OF TOTAL

PETRO/THERMO 4PERCENT OF TOTAL

MANUFACTURING HYDO/ELECT 18PERCENT OF TOTAL

OTHER PETROLEUM 21PERCENT OF TOTAL

HYDROELECTRIC 37PERCENT OF TOTAL

NATURAL GAS (BOTTLED) 20PERCENT OF TOTAL

NATURAL GAS (THERMO/ELECT FEEDSTOCK) 80PERCENT OF TOTAL

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2. THE CONSUMER COST OF ELECTRIC POWER VARIES WIDELY THROUGHOUT

COUNTRY, RESULTING IN AN UNWEIGHTED AVERAGE COST OF .44PESOS PER KWH WITH A RANGE OF .227-.61 PESOS PER KWH FOR HOUSEHOLDS ONLY. INDUSTRIAL, ETC. COSTS NOT AVAILABLE

3. THE GOB TO OUR KNOWLEDGE HAS NOT FORMULATED ANY CLEAR ENERGY POLICY SO FAR, BUT CERTAIN ELEMENTS, AT LEAST, OF GOB INTERESTED IN EXPLOITING MORE FULLY THE VAST HYDRO-ELECTRIC POTENTIAL OF COUNTRY. APPARENTLY LARGE DAM PROJECTS SUCH AS BALA NOT GENERALLY REQUIRED BECAUSE NATURAL RIVER FLOW SUFFICIENT FOR GENERATION.

USE OF PETROLEUM FOR FEEDSTOCKS TO FERTILIZER AND OTHER PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES BEING WIDELY DISCUSSED.

4. DRAMATIC INCREASES IN FERTILIZER IMPORT COSTS AS WELL AS GENERAL INCREASES IN COST OF OTHER PETROLEUM BASED PRODUCTS (EXCEPT VEHICLE FUEL PRICES) HAVE CAUSED SEVERE PROBLEMS IN VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE BOLIVIAN ECONOMY--PARTICULARLY FOR AGRICULTURE WHICH PROCEEDINGS TOWARD THE USE OF MODERN INPUTS (FERTILIZER, INSECTICIDES, TRACTORS, ETC.). THE RISING COST OF PETROLEUM WILL MORE THAN LIKELY SLOW THIS PROCESS OR MORE REALISTICALLY, CAUSE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT PRICES TO RISE SUBSTANTIALLY UNTIL A NEW EQUILIBRIUM COST STRUCTURE IS ESTABLISHED. THE MISSION CONSIDERS THIS IMPACT TO BE EXTREMELY DETRIMENTAL IN LIGHT OF EXISTING WORLD WIDE PRESSURE OF FOOD STOCKS. THE ABILITY OF BOLIVIA TO SOLVE ITS AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS IN THE SHORT TERM ARE NOW FURTHER CONSTRAINED.

STEDMAN

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